

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated May 16, 2006, the Patent Office objects to the first line of the specification for informalities. Further, claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 20, 24, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,493,231 to Wossner. Further, pending claims 4-7,14, 21, 25 and 27-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,996,454 to Brinks. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner; and claims 11, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner in view of Brinks and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,336,730 to Kopecko et al.

In view of the objection to the specification for informalities, Applicants hereby amend the first paragraph of the specification to indicate that the related application have now issued as patents. Accordingly, Applicants believe the objection to the specification has been overcome. Notice to that effect is requested.

With respect to the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite, Applicants amend claim 16 to provide proper antecedent basis. Therefore, the rejection of claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph has been overcome. Notice to that effect is requested.

Rejection based upon 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 20, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by Wossner. In response thereto, Applicants herein amend independent claim 24 to specify that the rotor is finished while assembled to the knuckle and hub. Further, claim 24 is amended to clarify that the finishing occurs during manufacture of the rotor. Wossner discloses an apparatus for machining worn rotors of a vehicle while the rotors are secured to the vehicle. However, the present invention as defined by independent claim 24 defines a method for finishing a rotor during manufacture. Specifically, claim 24 requires that the rotor is finished while assembled to the knuckle and hub at the time of manufacture of the rotor. As set forth in the background of invention, known methods of finishing rotors at the time of manufacture occur prior to assembly of the rotor to the knuckle and hub. The prior art disclosed in Wossner teaches that it is known to finish worn brake rotors by disassembling the knuckle and hub. Therefore, finishing a rotor during manufacture while the rotor is assembled to the knuckle and hub as required by claim 24 is patentably distinct over Wossner.

Claims 20 and 26 depend directly or indirectly from independent claim 24 and add additional limitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 20 and 26 are believed allowable for the same reasons set forth with respect to independent claim 24.

Rejections based upon 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 4-7, 14, 21, 25 and 27-29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner in view of Brinks. In response thereto, Applicants herein amend independent claims 21 and 27 to specify that the rotor is finished while assembled to the knuckle and hub. Further, claims 21 and 27 are amended to clarify that the finishing occurs during manufacture of the rotor. Again, Wossner merely teaches an apparatus for machining worn rotors of a vehicle while the rotors are secured to the vehicle. Likewise, Brinks also teaches a method for reducing run-out of a worn rotor while the rotor is secured to the vehicle. However, the present invention as defined by independent claims 21 and 27 define methods for finishing a rotor during manufacture of the rotor. Specifically, claims 21 and 27 require that the rotor is finished while assembled to the knuckle and hub at the time of manufacture of the rotor. Therefore, independent claims 21 and 27 as amended are patentably distinct over Wossner in view of Brinks. Notice to that effect is requested.

Moreover, neither Wossner nor Brinks, taken singly or in combination, teach or even remotely suggest finishing at least one surface of the brake rotor to reduce lateral run-out of the surface of the brake rotor to less than 14 μ m. Applicants submit that the reduction of the surfaces of the rotor to less than 14 μ m is distinguishable from the cited references.

Claims 4-7, 14, 25, 28 and 29 depend directly or indirectly from independent claims 21 and 27, respectively, and add additional limitations thereto. Accordingly, Applicants submit that

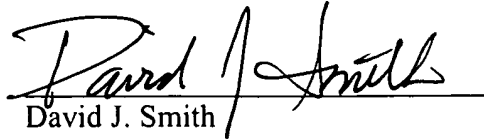
claims 4-7, 14, 25, 28 and 29 are believed allowable for the same reasons set forth with respect to independent claims 21 and 27.

Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner. As claim 16 depends indirectly from independent claim 24 and adds an additional limitation thereto, the argument above applies equally to claim 16. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 16 and request indication that such claim is allowable.

Pending claims 11, 22 and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wossner in view of Brinks and further in view of Kopecko et al. As claims 11, 22 and 23 depend directly or indirectly from claim 21 and adds additional limitations thereto, the argument above applies equally to claims 11, 22 and 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 11, 22 and 23 and request indication that such claims are allowable.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the pending rejections be withdrawn and the claims as presented herein be indicated as allowable. Should any questions or comments arise during review of this amendment and response, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney in order to effectuate a timely allowance of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David J. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Date: 10/16/06

David J. Smith
Reg. No. 57,135
McDonald Hopkins Co., LPA
600 Superior Avenue, E.
Suite 2100
Cleveland, OH 44114-2653
(216) 348-5431